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Multiseriate ray of dicotyledons.—THOMPSON³⁷ has investigated the origin of the multiseriate ray in a number of dicotyledons. He finds that in many families (Ericaceae, Casuarinaceae, Fagaceae, Betulaceae) multiseriate rays are produced "by the breaking up of the ancestral broad compound type," a type which is much broader than either the uniseriate or multiseriate, and consists of an extensive homogeneous mass of parenchyma, such a ray as "gives to the oak wood its characteristic grain." From this origin, as the author infers, the multiseriate ray, the most recent type of ray structure, has spread throughout the wood in the higher dicotyledons. Reversions to the old compound type are to be observed in seedlings, roots, etc., of those plants characterized by multiseriate rays.—J. M. C.

The work of Chodat.—The remarkable range of work that one man may undertake is illustrated by the two most recent fascicles from the Botanical Institute of the University of Geneva. They contain six papers by CHODAT, dealing with the following subjects: an unrecognized *Rhamnus* from the Balearic Islands, which becomes *R. Ludovici Salvatoris* Chod., nom. nov.;³⁸ the occurrence of green snow on a Swiss glacier, found to be due to a *Raphidium* described as *R. Vireti* Chodat;³⁹ a description of variegated clusters of grapes, which is a problem in genetics;⁴⁰ the first of a series of studies of the Conjugales, dealing with conjugation in *Spirogyra*;⁴¹ a study, from sections, of the stem structure of *Lepidodendron Brownii*;⁴² and the description of a new genus of Cyanophyceae (*Ernstiella*).⁴³—J. M. C.

Food reserves of trees.—PRESTON and PHILLIPS⁴⁴ have investigated the question of the nature and variation of the food reserves of certain American trees, comparing their results with those obtained by European investigators, a summary of whose work they present. Starch appears to be the principal reserve according to most authorities, and in temperate climates a considerable reduction in its amount takes place during the first weeks of winter, but there is no great increase in the content of sugar except at the unfolding of buds

³⁷ THOMPSON, W. P., On the origin of the multiseriate ray of the dicotyledons. Ann. Botany **25**:1005-1014. pls. 77, 78. 1911.

³⁸ CHODAT, R., Un *Rhamnus* méconnu des Baléares. Bull. Soc. Bot. Genève II. **1**:242, 243. 1909.

³⁹ ———, Sur la neige verte du glacier d'Argentièr. *op. cit.* 294-297. figs. 4.

⁴⁰ ———, Sur des grappes de raisins panachées. *op. cit.* 359-363. figs. 3.

⁴¹ ———, Etudes sur les Conjugues. 1. Sur la copulation d'un *Spirogyra*. *op. cit.* **2**:158-167. figs. 27. 1910.

⁴² ———, L'axe du *Lepidodendron Brownii* (*Lepidostrobus Brownii* Schimpr.). *op. cit.* **3**:8-13. figs. 7. 1911.

⁴³ ———, *Ernstiella rufa* Chod. un nouveau genre de Cyanophycées coccogènes. *op. cit.* 125, 126.

⁴⁴ PRESTON, J. F., and PHILLIPS, F. J., Seasonal variation in the food reserves of trees. Forestry Quarterly **9**:231-243. 1911.